

Sandhurst Cross to Bodiam circular



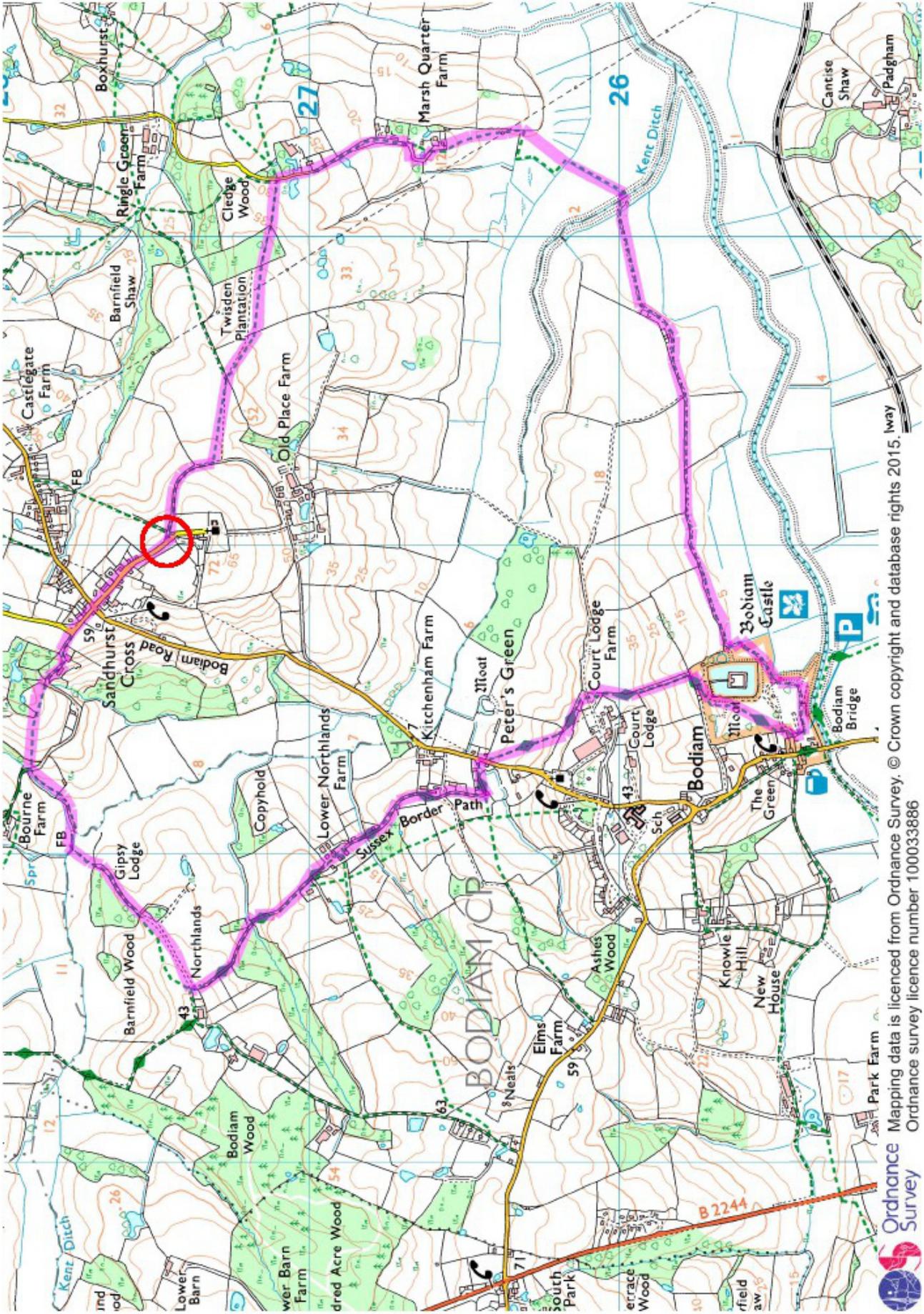
Welcome to the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, an unspoilt medieval Landscape. An outstanding cross section of Wealden landscape, from river valley to gently rolling hills and spectacular views. Passing through the grounds of Bodiam Castle.

Distance and duration	6 miles / 9½ kilometres - 3 hours
Level	Moderate
Start point / Post code	Church Road, Sandhurst Cross, TN18 5NS
OS map reference / what3words	TQ790274 / https://w3w.co/////laptops.dignitary.hatch
Other information	Roadside parking. Complete this walk virtually at: https://www.highwealdwalks.org/sandhurst.mp4 Find GPX at: https://www.highwealdwalks.org/sandhurst.gpx

I-Spy - Things to look out for in the landscape



The High Weald - An outstandingly beautiful medieval landscape



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Bodiam Castle

Bodiam Castle is a 14th-century moated castle near Robertsbridge in East Sussex. It was built in 1385 by Sir Edward Dalyngrigge, a former knight of Edward III, with the permission of Richard II, ostensibly to defend the area against French invasion during the Hundred Years' War.

Of quadrangular plan, Bodiam Castle has no keep, having its various chambers built around the outer defensive walls and inner courts. Its corners and entrance are marked by towers, and topped by crenellations. Its structure, details and situation in an artificial watery landscape indicate that display was an important aspect of the castle's design as well as defence. It was the home of the Dalyngrigge family and the centre of the manor of Bodiam.

Bodiam Castle was saved from demolition by the MP John 'Mad Jack' Fuller, who bought the castle at auction in 1828. Reappraised as a romantic relic of archaeological curiosity, the castle was repaired by a series of owners, most notably Lord Curzon, who owned Bodiam from 1917. He bequeathed it to the National Trust in 1926, since when numerous discoveries and reinterpretations have thrown new light on the building and its site.

The Walk

With your back to the church turn right and proceed along the lane with the hedge on the right and a post and rail fence on the left. After about ¼ mile, look for a metal gate on the left hand side. Squeeze through the gap at the side of the gate. There was a stile here but it has been grown over.

Follow the footpath straight across the field to the hedge on the far side. Go through the gap in the hedge and into the next field. Go across the next field and through another gap in the hedge. Go straight across this field to the tree line on the far side.

Pass into this small area of woodland and follow the path until a gap exits onto a field beyond. Follow the path down the slope and come out onto a track, turn right along the track for about ½ mile.

Follow the track past some farm buildings and a number of old Land Rovers. The track then bears round to the right to go around the perimeter of Marsh Quarter Farm. Follow the track past the farm and parked vehicles on the left and look out for a wooden gate ahead of you; vehicles do get parked in front of it occasionally.

Go through the gate and make for the far corner, passing to the right of the pylon. Pass through another gate and bear right down the slope, making for a bridge at the bottom.

Go over the bridge and carry straight on along the line of the dyke on the right. Climb the embankment at the end and to your right you will see a substantial bridge crossing the 'Kent Ditch'. Go over the bridge, and then follow the track that continues straight ahead past the wind pump.

Continue along this track for just under a mile, going past a smallholding on the right, until you come to a gate and cattle grid into the grounds of Bodiam Castle.

Follow the gravel path through the castle grounds bearing left and then right. Continue through the car park with the metal fence on your right,

Assuming you would like some refreshment; this can be taken in the Castle tea rooms or at the pub across the road from the entrance to the Castle grounds.

To continue the walk, go through the pedestrian entrance to the Castle grounds in the corner of the entry area.

There is a possibility that you will be accosted here by a National Trust volunteer demanding you show a proof of purchase in the form of an entry ticket. Explain as politely as you can that this is not necessary as you are walking a **public right of way** and will not be stopping within the Castle grounds. You have every right to do this.

Walk along the gravel path past the 'sentry box' and where the path turns to the right go up the grass bank and follow the mown path. At a junction of mown paths go straight on. Head down the slope to rejoin the gravel path.

Walk forward to the corner of the moat and turn to the right. Head across the grass to the picnic tables under the trees. Continue past the picnic area bearing left and look for a stile in the fence line on the left.

Go over the stile and up the hill to the very top. At the top go straight on across an open space and a track to a downhill slope where you will find a stile in a post and rail fence. Go over the stile and continue down to the bottom and turn left along the tree line.

Go through a squeeze gate and continue on in the same direction. Look for another squeeze gate on your right at the top of the slope and go through it into the field beyond. The path goes down through the field to the white painted house at the bottom.

Turn right along the road and almost immediately left along a lane. Follow this lane for ½ mile until it finishes in a farmyard and go through the kissing gate ahead of you.

Proceed along the track in the same general direction as before, passing over a stile and through a damp area of wooded ground. Continue along the track until you emerge into open space at the top of a hill.

Turn right at this point and follow this next track downhill. Bear left on the same line where another track comes in from the right and then bear right continuing downhill with the wood on the left.

At the bottom pass over a small gully into the field beyond and go straight across the field to a bridge on the far side. Go over the bridge and turn right and continue into the next field which has been a hop garden, watch out for concealed wires in the ground

Turn left and follow the edge of the field until you emerge on a track. Turn left and almost immediately right into a field. Turn right again, just beyond the gap, and go over a bridge and up a long flight of steps into a field beyond.

Go straight on up through the field to the edge of the woodland. Go round the right hand edge of the wood and continue across the field in the same direction to the treeline opposite.

Go down a bank and out onto the lane. Turn left and follow the lane out to its junction with the road. Turn right along the road to the crossroads. Go straight across and follow the lane back to the parking area and the church.

At all times please follow the Countryside Code



Respect everyone

- be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside
- leave gates and property as you find them
- do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking
- be nice, say hello, share the space
- follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available

Protect the environment

- take your litter home – leave no trace of your visit
- do not light fires and only have barbeques where signs say you can
- always keep dogs under control and in sight
- dog poo – bag it and bin it – any public waste bin will do
- care for nature – do not cause damage or disturbance

Enjoy the outdoors

- check your route and local conditions
- plan your adventure – know what to expect and what you can do
- enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory

Wildlife, including nesting birds, may have moved into new areas. Land managers may have provided extra protection for wildlife. Be vigilant and comply with these protective measures so that you do not disrupt the local wildlife